

2005 Report of Accomplishments

Cowlitz Conservation District



Most Significant Natural Resource Accomplishment

Cowlitz CD served as project sponsor for two landowners who received project funds for fish passage improvements through the family forest fish passage program (FFFPP). Plans and designs were completed in 2003-04, but construction was completed in 2004-2005. The projects provide coho, steelhead, and searun cutthroat access to 8.5 miles of habitat. Assistance has been provided to three additional landowners whose project will be implemented in 2006 or 2007



Mission of the Cowlitz Conservation District

“Working with our citizens, the Cowlitz Conservation District will conserve and improve the natural resources of the District by locally guiding the use and development of natural resources.”

Natural Resource Improvements in 04-05 - Summary

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Water Quality Implementation

- Our conservation partnership assisted 557 walk-in/call-in customers, conducted 39 field visits with landowners, prepared 10 conservation plans covering 400 acres, and is assisting 14 landowners with cost share to improve natural resources. Cowlitz Conservation District continues to enjoy a very effective collocated resource partnership with NRCS and DNR.
 - We are continuing to monitor stream and air temperature in priority watershed to assist with TMDL process. Thirty-two stream temperature sites and 6 air temperature sites are being managed in eight Cowlitz County watersheds
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Basic Funding

Cowlitz Conservation District uses its basic funding to help keep the doors open. About half of this years basic funding provided dues to WACD and NACD, allowed the board to participate in the state convention, and provided some overhead support. The remaining half is being used to leverage Salmon Recovery Funds.

Local Funding

- Improved riparian conditions on 4,200 lineal feet of stream in the Abernathy Creek Watershed by planting 3,500 trees and shrubs on 15.5 acres of riparian management area. Three thousand feet of fence was constructed to protect riparian plantings. Maintenance was conducted on an additional 16 acres of riparian management area that is directly benefiting 13,500 feet of Abernathy Creek.
- Watershed Voyages, a county wide natural resource education program reached out to 20+ classrooms and student groups and provided learning experiences to 886 students. Curriculum is being compiled or developed for educational activity modules covering watershed management, forest management, fish and wildlife management, and water quality. Funding is provided through a project agreement with Cowlitz County for funds made available by the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-determination Act of 2000e III funds
- We currently receive \$1,000 per year for administrative support from the County.

Professional Engineering

- The District constructed two fish passage improvement projects and assisted two additional landowners with planning and design assistance for construction in 2005-2006.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Maintenance was conducted on the two existing contract sites encompassing 15 acres. One site was replanted with approximately 500 trees and shrubs.
- Met with three private landowners and the City of Kelso to discuss CREP opportunities. Two of the private landowners are in the process of signing up for the program. We are continuing to work with the City of Kelso which is considering the program for a 20-acre site in the Coweeman River watershed.

Dairy / Livestock

- We have satisfied all our commitments with our local dairies (2) and working on identifying needs of livestock producers within our district.

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- We are continuing to work with the Department of Ecology to plan and host watershed community meeting during the fall of 2005.
- We are continuing to monitor stream and air temperature in priority watershed to assist with TMDL process. Thirty-two stream temperature sites and 6 air temperature sites are being managed in eight Cowlitz County watersheds.
- Provided assistance to the City of Castle Rock to implement riparian planting projects as a component of the Whittle Creek Watershed Plan (Cowlitz River Tributary) that was drafted in 2001.

Small Farm Programs

- Our conservation partnership assisted 557 walk-in/call-in customers, conducted 39 field visits with landowners, prepared 10 conservation plans covering 400 acres, and is assisting 14 landowners with cost share to improve natural resources.
 - The District is placing emphasis on training opportunities for technicians in an effort to cooperatively with Department of Ecology to build a small farms program.
 - We have drafted an informational flier and began providing soil monitoring assistance to local landowners. This is an educational effort to inform landowners as to the value of soil laboratory analysis for guiding application of soil amendments.
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Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Continue to provide technical assistance to the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board.
- Continue to participate in meetings of the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group.
- Continuing to manage the Watershed Voyages project which is collaboration with 3 other project sponsors to develop a single education - outreach project funded through County Title III funding.
- Assisted DNR and Society of American Foresters with the Longview 5th grade forestry field day program. Over 500 students participated in the program.
- Assisted the DNR Stewardship forestry and WSU Cooperative Extension to develop a local coached planning session in which landowner participate in a one day a week, eight week course to enable them to prepare their own forest stewardship plan.

Information & Education

- Hosted plant materials sale and assisted over 400 landowners with information regarding suitable uses of available native plant materials. Sold plant materials to fifty-five landowners for conservation purposes.
- Sponsored local high schools to participate in regional and state Envirothon.
- Worked with 18 entities to coordinate activities in the natural resources building at the Cowlitz County fair. The building received about 200 visits additional promotions resulted in 428 children and their parents visiting the building for kids activities and 200 senior citizens on seniors day. The efforts resulting in over 150 direct contacts for district information.
- The District hosted a local forum commemorating the 25th anniversary of the eruption of Mt St Helens. About 50 landowners participated in the event which featured speakers from USGS, ACOE,

WDFW, NRCS, and the District discussing past, present and future issues resulting from the eruption and subsequent management activities.

- Watershed Voyages, a county wide natural resource education program reached out to 20 classrooms and student groups and provided learning experiences to 886 students.



Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices